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St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

VOL. 46, NO. 40.

LAST EDITION BEATEN BACK.

Four Masked Bandits Attack a Train in North Missouri.

Their Assault Met With Volleys from Detectives' Winchesters.

Engineer Prescott Shot in the Shoulder but Not Dangerously Injured.

Spies Revealed the Plot and Officers Filled the Express Car.

TWO OF THE ROBBERS CAPTURED, ONE OF THEM BADLY WOUNDED.

The Attempt Was Made Near Gorin at 2:30 This Morning—Many Shots Fired—Changed by the Bandits and the Express Car, but to Far as Known Only the Engineer Was Injured—A Posse Now in Pursuit of Fleeting Criminals. The Passengers Terrified by the Raid.

GORIN, Mo., Sept. 18.—The Colorado and Utah express and passenger train No. 5, westbound from Chicago, was attacked by bandits near this station at 2:30 this morning. The railway company had an armed posse of detectives on the train and was fully prepared for the attack.

After a battle of twenty minutes' duration with the detectives, who had been placed on the train at Chicago, the bandits were routed and escaped to the woods. During the fusillade about fifty shots were exchanged.

"Dad" Prescott, the engineer, who lives at Nepeka, received a flesh wound in the shoulder. Aside from this, nobody, as far as known, was hurt. The work of the bandits came to naught, for the heavy amount of money known to be aboard the train was uncollected and the passengers uncollected.

The bandits had been tracked by the detectives, who gave them battle. At Memphis, No. 2, of them were captured. Their names are Charles Abrams and Lincoln Overfield. Abrams is badly wounded.

RAID LAID FOR THE BANDITS.

The raid was planned three weeks ago, but not put into execution till this morning. When the train left Chicago at 10 o'clock last evening railroad and express detectives, all walking arsenals, climbed on at every station. Chief Detective J. J. Kenney of the Santa Fe, with G. C. Montgomery, his right-hand man, boarded it at Joliet. At Streator they were joined by two more men, who have been patrolling the line for twenty days. J. A. Matthews, who has been acting as a spy in the robbers' camp for the last two weeks and getting the news of the robbery plans, put in an appearance at Galesburg.

He brought news that the bandits met early in the day and decided to leave their hiding place near Memphis, Mo., at 8:30 o'clock last night and make an attempt to get rich at the expense of the express company. They expected to make a haul of at least \$50,000, the Monday run being always much heavier than any other day of the week.

When the train reached Fort Madison, Io., shortly after midnight Division Superintendent Stoeckton, of the Wells-Fargo Express Co., got into the treasure car. He carried a sawed-off Winchester with a history. It belonged to Bill Dalton, and it was his custom to ride to the front of the locomotives in the foot-steps of the Western desperado. With him were four men. Their arms were in the car and had been for several days.

Then a council of war was held. It was first proposed to ambuscade the forces behind a barricade of trunks and boxes in the express car and allow the robbers to enter. The messenger was to throw up his hands and kneel down to open up the seat. Then he was to fall on the floor and then the sawed-off Winchesters would commence to bark. Two men were to be stationed on the engine to protect the engineer and fireman and another was to guard the rear. This scheme was finally abandoned.

THE RAID DECIDED ON.

The plan adopted was this. Detectives Kenney and Montgomery selected the train, except Stoeckton and two of his guards, who tarried in the express car, but it was in the forward end of the smoking-car the forces were massed. A partition and door inclosed half a dozen seats and shuts off the rest of the car from it. There the men, a dozen of them, were planted. Each had one of the "sawed-offs," loaded especially for the event with two dozen buckshot by Sup't. Stoeckton.

There was only one passenger in that compartment, and he was requested by the brakeman to take a seat in the chair-car, as "they were going to sweep."

At 2:30 this morning Saling of Scotts Hill County, Missouri, started on board all details of the surprise party were arranged. There was one man, however, who had to be looked out for and protected. He was the spy. According to the report brought in by Matthews, the spy would endeavor to be the one who flagged the train. If so, one torpedo would precede the swinging of the lantern. If another, there would be a couple of tiny bombs exploded.

The orders were "that no matter if every one of the guilty ones got away there was to be no shooting to endanger the life of the man who had, in fact, taken his life into his hands in order to frustrate the attempt at robbery. And so, as the minutes sped on, an

unwonted silence settled down on the train. Pullman car conductors and porters sought places of safety, and even the trainmen did not expose themselves unnecessarily.

In the little compartment filled with armed men, the lights were out, the windows were shut. In each seat were two men sitting sideways, the muzzles of their guns protruding just a trifle over the sill. Behind them stood others, cocking their rifles, with Winchesters at half-cock resting across their arms. They were waiting for the torpedo.

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from the train at a standstill.

From the dense undergrowth north of the track came four forms. The face of each was hidden by a black mask. One, more agile than the rest, rushed to the engine almost before his companions could reach the express car. He carried a rifle, and when within ten feet of the tender brought it to his shoulder, pointed it at "Dad" Prescott, the white-bearded engineer, and as he shouted "Hold up your hands," pulled the trigger.

His aim was true, and "Dad" fell to the floor of the car with a bullet in his right shoulder.

With one bound Kinney gained the top of the tender, and, bringing his gun to his shoulder, sent a shower of hot shots into the face of the masked individual.

How the bandit escaped the bullets is a mystery. But he did and made for the woods.

The shot which laid Engineer Prescott low was the signal for a fusillade and the woods rang with echoing shots. It was also the signal for a hasty retreat to the shelter of timber on the part of the greatly surprised robbers. Not until they reached timber did they realize that the engine had been hit, and they then only fired two shots. But their aim was not good, and although men were leaping from the car windows and pulling triggers as fast as possible, while others jumped to earth and were after them on foot, they failed to hit a man.

According to the programme the robbers' horses were hatched not over 100 yards away. When the posse from the train reached the spot they saw one animal, a gray, galloping across the hidden. A well directed shot brought it low, but there was no rider on it.

The plan, where the horses had been tied up soon found, and cut hatching-traps showed the haste of the riders to make their escape. Sheriff Saling took the saddle and bridle from the dead gray, and as they said he will have no trouble in identifying the owner. The search for dead and wounded was postponed until daylight.

But the chase after those who escaped was started within ten minutes after the shooting ended. The Sheriff secured horses here, and with half a dozen men started north. They know the men, and are confident they will have them in custody soon.

PASSENGERS TERRIFIED.

It is not likely the passengers in the rear end of the smoker, those who were doing in the chair-car, and a half dozen or so sleepless ones in the sleepers will ever forget the experience. With the first shot every man near a window opened it and looked out. With the second he drew his head in, and when the volleys commenced he had not time to close window but just dropped it down on the floor of the car.

Then the cry "Train robbers" went through the train, and women went down on their knees, lifted their hands and screamed vigorously. It was absolutely impossible to walk through the cars without climbing over the seats. When the excitement was at its height the brakeman put his head in the door and shouted: "Keep your heads down, ladies and gentlemen. Train robbers are outside."

In the sleeper Saling two women ran shrieking from their berths and were headed for the danger spot when Conductor Blue captured them and forcibly prevailed on them to go back to bed. And there were at least one dozen individuals who snored through it all and did not miss a note.

When the train reached Gorin, Engineer Prescott was removed to a private house, and Dr. Cruckshank, a Santa Fe physician in New Mexico, who was on the train, attended to his injuries. Fireman McGraw took the train home.

FOUR BANDITS ABANDONED.

Twelve hours before last night's attempt the bandits left their hiding-places, twenty-one miles away, and started for the spot selected for their deed of violence. Each time a copious fall of rain changed their plans.

Several hours of darkness and rain followed after 10 o'clock and started to ride slowly across the country. It was cloudy and they had covered more than a third of the distance when they reached the foot of the mountains, probably before 2 o'clock in the morning. The shooting had stopped, and the robbers had followed the trail for five miles. From the indications they say eight men were in the party that night.

Last morning was the second time the affair was hatched to come off. It had not been for the rain the attack would have been made, but the robbers were not the better part of valor.

The command to retreat was given and the procession was to start again, but the robbers would commence to bark. Two men were to be stationed on the engine to protect the engineer and fireman and another was to guard the rear. This scheme was finally abandoned.

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TUESDAY, SEPT. 18, 1884.

AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT.

GRAND OPERA-HOUSE—"A Back Number." THE HAGAN—Cleveland's Minstrels. BOOF GARDEN—Vaudville. STANDARD—Hick & Barron's Comedies. HAYLINE—"Temptation of Money." MAHOGANY TO TOMORROW. GRAND OPERA-HOUSE—"A Back Number." THE HAGAN—Cleveland's Minstrels. POST'S—Continental show.

THE silver tongue does well enough until it encounters the feminine tongue.

In the hands of generous men bar's are mightier than trains in New York politics.

THERE will be no opening gun to the New York campaign. It will be an opening bang.

THE South End sufferers from the Butler stonch factory are still holding meetings and their noses.

THE fact that a Nelson pudding was served in the new Planters' House is not believed to have any political significance.

THE high tariff party is welcome to the pauper crowd of sugar grabbers in Louisiana. The grabbers are now just where they belong.

THOMAS REED has let it be known that he has gone fishing. Isn't Thomas a trifl anticipatory in taking up the presidential sport so early?

WE command the resolutions of the Young Men's Democratic Club of Boston to Gorman, Brice, Smith and Murphy as good reading for bad Democrats.

LEVI MORTON is said to have an "unimaginative merchant mind." He may, therefore, estimate with tolerable accuracy what a presidential nomination will cost.

GOV. WAITE is now pictured as a very quiet, self-possessed old gentleman, modest and not assertive. He has probably swapped his war horse for a quieter one until after the election.

NO DOUBT Mr. McKinley could be induced to speak in Missouri. All the candidates for a presidential nomination are interested in keeping themselves before the people. Mr. McKinley would be entirely harmless here.

THE New York State League of Republican Clubs wants to go into the convention with "a mighty shout" and nominate one Green of Binghamton, but Levi Morton's bar's speak louder than the united voices of all the leagues in the world.

EVERY in their wild talk the Louisiana sugar grabbers exhibit some shame at accepting a sugar bounty, though they are determined to get it if they can. Bounties, however, deserve nobody, and are preferable to the wretched tariff trickery by which consumers are deceived.

THE case of J. Sloat Fassett is really pathetic. Making a desperate fight for the New York Governorship in a year when he was certain to be beaten, he is now set aside in a year when his party thinks it can elect any kind of a nominee. Add to his woes, Sloaty seems to see the Presidency itself snatched from him by the unscrupulous party boss.

THE Republicans are making a needless fuss over Senator Jones' flop. Senator Jones is as much a Republican as he ever was, but Populist support is necessary to him. As to his having been elected as a Republican, that amounts to little. Nevada is a sort of imaginary State, anyhow, and the little irregularity of the Senator does not seem to be a matter of much consequence.

THE day may come when the Chinese will swarm on the American continent. The South American Governments are encouraging Chinese immigration, and one company has contracted to supply 1,000,000 coolies for labor in Brazil. When we shall have converted the Celestials to modern ideas and taught them to make and use the most effective firearms we may learn a good deal more about them than we now know.

JUDGE JAMES R. JEWELL of Kentucky, author of that aphoristic gem which has

so often served to express feelings which would otherwise be inarticulate, "Politics is h—l," has delivered an opinion which falls like a benediction on the troubled spirit of the Ashland Democrats. When asked about the proposed contest he remarked: "They ought to take their medicine. All Democratic elections are fair. Democrats do nothing that is unfair." Such faith cannot be exceeded, no, not in Texas or Imperial Missouri. Col. Jewell is the Democrat of Democrats.

It is hardly possible to credit the reports of the Japanese victory at Ping-Yang, so one-sided is the fight represented to have been. It seems incredible that in slaying 16,000 Chinese and completely routing their army by hard fighting the Japanese should have so small a list of killed and wounded as thirty of the former and 200 of the latter. The report is from Seoul, which is in possession of the Japs, and is therefore to be viewed with suspicion. If the full account of the battle verifies the Japanese report it will prove the great superiority of the Japanese over Chinese forces in military equipment and prowess. China's numbers will be of no avail against her spirited adversary if she cannot make a better comparative showing than this battle indicates.

DECIF NON-ESSENTIALS.

There is gratifying evidence that the school authorities are making an effort to meet the unfortunate situation which confronts them in the overcrowded public schools. The Building Committee is preparing to add needed extensions to school buildings and to secure rooms where building is impossible.

But all of this work which should have been done in advance will require time and the children who are at present cut off from fair opportunities will lose valuable time in the most important part of the school year. The authorities should meet the emergency with heroic treatment. The kindergartens of our crowded schools and of other schools available for the accommodation of the surplus of pupils should be devoted to their use until the emergency is passed. If music and drawing interfere in any way with grammar school instruction or accommodation they should be dropped.

Kindergartens are good things in their proper places. But they are not good things in a public school system when they use room and means needed to afford common school education to all. The kindergartens children can wait, but time is valuable to the children of school age. The children can easily do without music and drawing in order to get reading, writing and arithmetic.

Every lad, girl and non-essential in the schools should be dropped until the essentials are properly provided for every child of school age.

BRECKINRIDGE CONSISTENCY.

Col. Breckinridge's attempt to gain public sympathy by representing himself to be the victim of violence, fraud and abuse in the primary election is a great failure in his effort to win popular endorsement of a keg or its contents in this startling phenomenon.

Local dispatches are published about the rearrangement of the army posts, but not a word is telegraphed as to where Maj. Elijah Haiford is to finally bring up. The latest Texas meteor is described as about as large as the end of a keg keg and making a noise like that of a cannon. There may have been something of the nature of a keg keg or its contents in this startling phenomenon.

THE Japanese win a battle as easily in fact as they give it on paper the Chinese will shortly be exterminated. When only thirty Japanese are killed in a great conflict with 30,000 Chinamen we may look for a speedy termination of the war.

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UNCLE FILLIE should take care not to get mixed up in his great wool speech the sheep slaughtered in Colorado recently by malicious persons.

Of course Jones of Nevada will not resign. It isn't likely that even Gorman would retire if a committee were to ask his resignation.

EVERY large city should have a Lexow committee.

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM.

[No matter written on both sides of the sheet can be read by the eye. Bear in mind that it is against our rule to print any letter sent to this office unaccompanied by name and residence of writer.]

UNION STATION'S Surroundings.

To the Editor of the Post-Dispatch:

In seeking to have you take the greatest interest in the great improvements in the greater part of our city, I state that you have nothing to say regarding the vicinity and surroundings of our new magnificent Union Station. It is generally conceded that we have the most beautiful of docks. A gentleman just returned from Europe says that the great depth at Frankfort is only superior to ours from the simple reasons that the great improvements are greater. What have we? A lot of docks and a great deal of dirt. Of course, in course of time, this will be remedied; also property will enhance in value.

The opening of a new hotel in course of construction and in contemplation, its opening marks an epoch in the life of several new hotels in course of construction and in contemplation, its opening marks an epoch in the life of our new station and this can be done easy enough. We need not go into the property of the traveling public.

The change from the old inadequate sheds to the grand new station and from the old insufficient hotel list to a great extension of first-class accommodation, the need of which has been increasingly felt, may be taken as the measure of the increase of business and communication with the world.

The reproach of discomfort and inade-

quacy accommodations which for a time placed St. Louis on the black list of the traveling public is taken away. The city is growing in every line to true proportion with its population, solidity, manufacturing and trade importance and activity. No other city so staunchly weathered the late commercial and financial storm, and no other is responding more vigorously to the reviving pulse of business. This city is reaping the reward of honest, prudent effort in a tide of trade and investment activity. And the city is in position now to take care of all that comes its way.

COKE AND NELSON.

Hon. Seth Cobb's friends in the Twelfth District are much disturbed by the appearance of Mr. N. O. Nelson as a candidate for Congress, brought out by a petition to which, it is claimed, there were attached the signatures of 7,000 voters. Mr. Nelson as a chosen representative of the free trade and single tax idea of Henry George will have the support of the most earnest and active propagandist element in St. Louis politics—an element that gave probably its entire vote to the Democratic ticket two years ago.

These free traders are disgusted with the Gorman scheme of tariff reform and refuse to accept a tax of fifteen or twenty millions levied on surplus incomes as sufficient compensation for a tax of forty millions levied on the poor man's sugar in the interest of rich sugar planters and the Sugar Trust. They are determined also to register their protest against the Olymian of an administration which they helped to elect and which has utterly failed to take any action under the laws against trusts in general and the big corporations that are violating the interstate commerce law.

The elections in Maine and elsewhere have shown a great decrease in the Democratic vote due to this sort of dissatisfaction in the ranks of the party, and if very prevalent here it may help this Nelson movement to defeat Mr. Cobb and elect a Republican, provided the Republicans nominate a strong and popular candidate. In a straight contest between Cobb and Nelson, however, the Republicans would allow to roll over a majority for Cobb.

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THE latest Texas meteor is described as about as large as the end of a keg keg and making a noise like that of a cannon. There may have been something of the nature of a keg keg or its contents in this startling phenomenon.

UNCLE FILLIE should take care not to get mixed up in his great wool speech the sheep slaughtered in Colorado recently by malicious persons.

Of course Jones of Nevada will not resign.

It isn't likely that even Gorman would retire if a committee were to ask his resignation.

EVERY large city should have a Lexow committee.

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM.

[No matter written on both sides of the sheet can be read by the eye. Bear in mind that it is against our rule to print any letter sent to this office unaccompanied by name and residence of writer.]

UNION STATION'S Surroundings.

To the Editor of the Post-Dispatch:

In seeking to have you take the greatest interest in the great improvements in the greater part of our city, I state that you have nothing to say regarding the vicinity and surroundings of our new magnificent Union Station. It is generally conceded that we have the most beautiful of docks. A gentleman just returned from Europe says that the great depth at Frankfort is only superior to ours from the simple reasons that the great improvements are greater. What have we?

A lot of docks and a great deal of dirt. Of course, in course of time, this will be remedied; also property will enhance in value.

The opening of a new hotel in course of construction and in contemplation, its opening marks an epoch in the life of our new station and this can be done easy enough. We need not go into the property of the traveling public.

The change from the old inadequate sheds to the grand new station and from the old insufficient hotel list to a great extension of first-class accommodation, the need of which has been increasingly felt, may be taken as the measure of the increase of business and communication with the world.

The reproach of discomfort and inade-

quacy accommodations which for a time placed St. Louis on the black list of the traveling public is taken away. The city is growing in every line to true proportion with its population, solidity, manufacturing and trade importance and activity. No other city so staunchly weathered the late commercial and financial storm, and no other is responding more vigorously to the reviving pulse of business. This city is reaping the reward of honest, prudent effort in a tide of trade and investment activity. And the city is in position now to take care of all that comes its way.

St. Louis is all right.

ON TO PEKING.

Japan Will Dictate Terms of Peace at the Chinese Capital.

Minister Kur'n Est'd Over the News From Ping Yang.

"THE GREATEST VICTORY EVER WON IN THE EAST."

tinuing the pursuit of the Chinese who succeeded in escaping, and in searching all houses containing Chinese in squares of captured Chinese.

The Chinese prisoners who were not wounded were taken prisoner, many being in a circle of Japanese troops, and it was seen that they numbered 14,500. It is probable that the total number of Chinese captured during the past few days by the prisoners who are being constantly brought by the Japanese cavalry. Many of the Chinese who were found hiding in the quiet portions of the city.

Besides Gen. Tso Fook Wal, four Chinese were captured, who fought desperately to the last and only surrendered when he was badly wounded. The Japanese are said to have captured the commanding officer of the Chinese forces, namely, Gen. Tsao Fook Wal, Gen. Wei Ink Wal, Gen. Naya Kow, and Gen. Wei Lin Lin, practically all the effective Chinese.

The Chinese prisoners are to be sent to Japan in batches of 1,000 on board Japanese transports at anchor in the Yangtze River.

A CIVILIZED NATION.

Reason Why Japan Will Be Recognized by the Great Powers.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 18.—The new treaties which Japan is negotiating with the great powers, including the United States, are regarded in diplomatic circles as "an event in international affairs quite as important as the Chinese-Japanese war, as the treaties will for the first time give official recognition to Japan in the sisterhood of civilized nations. The terms of the treaty will grant Britain, France, and the United States the same treaty rights as the countries of Europe or the Western hemisphere. All of the great powers are to be represented in the new treaty with Germany and other powers.

The significant feature of the new series of treaties is the recognition of Japan as a civilized nation to the same extent as the United States and the other powers.

The records of the State Department show that the United States was the first to make a formal recognition of Japan when it sent a minister there, this being within the last forty years, prior to which time the United States, in such a enlightened condition as it is, had no diplomatic relations with the kind Japan had ever seen. It took his life in his hands, and, going to the seat of government at Tokyo, he succeeded in making an advantageous treaty. This served as the basis for subsequent negotiations, and the United States has been the first to recognize Japan as a civilized nation.

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"It was no surprise to me," continued the Minister. "The Chinese army was large, but it did not know how to fight. A few of the troops, trained in European methods, did well enough, but our army was commanded by officers educated in European and Japanese schools, who had well-drilled troops, not clumsy mercenaries."

"And the cry 'On to Peking' now," he was asked. "Of course it is," he answered. "There can be no half-way measures now. The only peace with glory must be dictated when Japanese troops occupy Peking. The whole of the Japanese army now in Korea may not be pushed into China, but we have other armies than that which won the victory at Ping Yang under Count Imaezumi and Gen. Oshiro. There is a move against Peking will begin at once."

"I am not a close student of geography, nor a military man, but I think Peking may be ours in November. The Japanese were, as a people, enthusiastic over the war, and now that a great victory has crowned our first campaign the Mikado and his subjects will not be satisfied until the Chinese, who seem to think they own the earth, are taught a lesson they will never forget."

"The Japanese are not bent upon a war of extermination, but they mean business," as you say in this country. Think of the figures given in regard to the battle just fought. An army of 20,000 Chinese is practically wiped out with the loss of a few hundred Japanese."

"I was asked," observed the Minister, smiling triumphantly, "by the correspondent in China a few weeks back, 'What is the nation of 40,000,000 expected to whip a nation of 400,000,000?'" Look at the statistics of the great Japanese army, but the men in power and authority are."

"Don't you think the victory will make all the difference?"

"Of course it will. There will be no sympathizers with China in Korea hereafter, except with the Japanese, who are friends in all parts of the world, for we fought for a principle and have triumphed."

"Was the victory due, in your opinion, to the skill of the Japanese, or to the fact that their superior drill, or to their greater bravery?"

MORRIS D. REES.

The Young Man Arrested at Sedalia for Embazement.

SEDALIA, Mo., Sept. 18.—Morris D. Rees, son of the late Col. Rees, one of Franklin County's most influential farmers, was arrested in Sedalia last evening for embazement funds belonging to the Wells-Fargo Express Co., which he represented as agent and operator for the Santa Fe Railroad at Beulah, Kan. In the early part of 1890, the loss was paid at the time by his predecessor, the late S. C. of San Francisco. The Wells-Fargo Co. desired to make an example of Rees, and detectives were put on his trail. He is married and has jurisdiction over all cases of civil and criminal, in which a foreigner was a party. These cases were established on the theory that he would prove the most corrupt and illegal methods were used by the Owens. Rees says that these frauds will be fully exposed and the names of all the voters were cast; that in Georgetown all the votes were cast, and that he was elected.

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